



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &  
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

Denali Commission Quarterly Progress Report  
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association  
Award 1371

**Project Name:** Health Program Planning, Design, Implementation and Evaluation

**Reporting Period:** FY 15 Quarter 1 Oct - Dec 2014

**Date Submitted:** January 5, 2015

**Project Budget Summary**

Total Project Cost: \$200,000

**Amount of Reimbursement requested current quarter:**

1371: 0

**Total Denali Commission Grant Funds received to date:**

1371: 0

**Narrative Summary of Activities:**

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) has a Denali Commission award for program planning, design, implementation and evaluation of health-related projects throughout rural Alaska. The performance award period is February 22, 2011 through September 30, 2016.

ASHNHA has not yet expended any of the project funds due to the availability of other resources while the specific details of this project were further defined. The following is a description of the work to be completed on this project in the coming months. This has been shared with the Denali Commission, Director of Programs and is being included here as part of the quarterly report.

Since 2010 ASHNHA has been working to convene rural health care providers and experts to review the anticipated changes in Alaska as a result of the recent changes in federal law and health policy. Using a previously Denali Commission award (1265-M) along with funding secured from multiple stakeholders, ASHNHA has convened the AK Health Reform work group to research and help health care stakeholders understand the impact of the Affordable Care Act in Alaska. A key part of this work in the past two years has been advocating for Medicaid Expansion to ensure that all Alaskans have access to health care. Helping health care providers understand the health insurance marketplace subsidies and eligibility has been another important part of the process.



Since April 2014, the Medicaid Reform Advisory Group (MRAG) has been looking at options for reform or innovation within the State Medicaid program. ASHNHA and other stakeholders have been actively participating in this process. Many factors point toward an increasingly difficult fiscal landscape in Alaska with an increasing state budget deficit and signals pointing to decreased funding for Medicaid.

Amidst this environment ASHNHA seeks to develop a work group to explore options for non-traditional Medicaid Expansion while at the same time proactively exploring Medicaid reform payment options that will be acceptable to providers – both rural and urban, tribal and non-tribal. This work will include looking to other states for models of Medicaid Expansion and Medicaid payment reform and completing an analysis for how these models could work in Alaska. This effort will seek to find an acceptable model to cover the “gap” population in Alaska and to stabilize the overall Medicaid program. This effort will first focus on the health care services portion of Medicaid, but if the model is successful it could be extended to long term care and behavioral health as well.

ASHNHA is exploring how to best convene stakeholders and provide staff support for this effort. We will likely need to engage a consultant to help focus the effort and bring in national perspective and research to the process. Our next step is to meet with the new Commissioner of Health and Social Services to be sure our efforts are in alignment with the Dept and to explore how we can best work together.

ASHNHA will continue to focus on other aspects of health care reform including the affordable care act, Cadillac tax, and the health insurance marketplace in Alaska. We will continue to use ASHNHA’s expertise and information gathering capabilities to understand and communicate how these issues will affect access to rural health care. We will continue to focus attention on the challenges and opportunities available to rural providers in health care reform where volumes are low and capacity to gather and analyze information is limited.

#### **Facility Certification:**

The preparer of this report, by signing below, certifies on behalf of his or her employer, that the information contained herein is accurate and complete to the best of his or her knowledge.

Jeannine Monk  
Signature

1/5/15  
Date

Jeannine Monk Sr Program Officer  
Printed Name and Official Title